

**METHODS FOR DIAGNOSING, PREVENTING, AND TREATING
DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS DUE TO A COMBINATION OF
GENETIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

- 5 The present application is a non-provisional application claiming the ^{benefit} priority of copending provisional U.S. Serial No. 60/136,198 filed May 25, 1999, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. Applicants claim the benefits of this application under 35 U.S.C. §119(e).

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

- 10 The invention relates generally to novel methods of diagnosing, preventing, and treating specific diseases which are caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors. One such disease exemplified is schizophrenia.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

- The term "schizophrenia" was introduced by Bleuler in the beginning of this century
15 to encompass a dissociation or disruption of thought processes, along with a dichotomy among thought, emotion, and behavior [Bleuler, *Translation J. Zinkin*, New York: International University Press (1950)]. The current definition of schizophrenia includes a break with reality that is usually manifested as hallucinations, delusions, or disruption in thought processes [Carpenter *et al.*, *Medical*
20 *Progress*, 330:681-690 (1994)]. At present the nationally accepted definition for the diagnosis of schizophrenia is contained in Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, Washington, D.C (1994): American Psychiatric Association, hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

- Schizophrenia is a clinical syndrome that has a profound influence on public health.
25 The symptoms for schizophrenia begin early in life, and continues for most patients throughout their lives. An estimate of the direct and indirect costs of schizophrenia was thirty-three billion dollars for 1990 in the United States alone [Carpenter *et al.*,

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